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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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---------- 107331
R 111123Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7866
INFO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL
SUBJECT: INVITATION TO VICE-PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER

REF: EMBASSY FORM DS-4 OF FEBRUARY 6

1. ON FEBRUARY 6 THE EMBASSY TRANSMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT (EUR/CE) FOR FORWARDING TO THE VICE-PRESIDENT, A LETTER FROM DR. KONRAD HENKEL, PRESIDENT, STEUBEN-SCHURZ SOCIETY, DUESSELDORF, TO VICE-PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER INVITING HIM TO SPEAK AT A MAJOR GERMAN-AMERICAN CEREMONY MARKING AMERICA'S BICENTENNIAL. IT IS TO BE HELD AT THE FRANKFURT PAULSKIRCHE, SHRINE OF GERMAN DEMOCRACY, PROBABLY ON SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1976; BUT THE DATE COULD BE ADJUSTED TO THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE. THE MAIN ORGANIZERS OF THE CEREMONY ARE THE STEUBEN-SCHURZ SOCIETIES OF DUESSELDORF AND FRANKFURT AND THE ATLANTIC BRUECKE.

2. PRESIDENT SCHEEL HAS AGREED TO ASSUME PATRONAGE OVER THE EVENT AND WILL ATTEND IT. CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT HAS AGREED TO BE THE KEY GERMAN SPEAKER. IT WILL THUS BE THE,REPEAT THE, BICENTENNIAL EVENT IN THE FEDREP OF GERMANY. NOTE THAT IN ACCEPTING THE INVITATION TO SPEAK, CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT STATED: "I WELCOME THIS OPPORTUNITY OFFERED TO ME TO BRING ONCE AGAIN IN A MAJOR ADDRESS INTO PUBLIC FOCUS, BOTH AS FAR AS
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DOMESTIC POLICIES ARE CONCERNED AS WELL AS VIS-A-VIS

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THE U.S., THE CLOSE TIES THAT EXIST BETWEEN GERMANY AND THE UNITED STATES..."

3. THE INVITATION TO VICE-PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER SHOULD BE VIEWED AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE FRG'S DECISION TO UTILIZE OUR BICENTENNIAL IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE TO REEMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE IT ATTACHES TO THE ALLIANCE WITH THE U.S. IT HAS EARMARKED DM 9 1/2 MILLION OF ITS 1976 BUDGET FOR BICENTENNIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, INCLUDING THE ENDOWMENT OF TWO CHAIRS AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES, THE GIFT OF A ZEISS ASTROPROJECTOR TO THE SMITHSONIAN'S NEW SPACE MUSEUM, AND A GRANT OF DM 2 1/2 MILLION TO THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON GERMANY FOR STRENGTHENING BINATIONAL EXCHANGES, MAINLY IN NON-ACADEMIC FIELDS (TO BE ANNOUNCED ON MARCH 18, 1975). MOREOVER, THE FRG GOVERNMENT HAS APPOINTED DR. HEINZ KREKELER, THE FRG'S FIRST AMBASSADOR IN THE U.S., AS ITS BICENTENNIAL COORDINATOR IN ORDER TO PROMOTE AND STIMULATE BICEN-TENNIAL ACTIVITIES ON THE PART OF THE GERMAN LAENDER, COMMUNITIES, AND VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, AND TO ACTIVATE INTENSIFIED GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS AT THE GRASS-ROOTS LEVEL. EVERY LAND MINISTER-PRESIDENT HAS NOW APPOINTED A BICENTENNIAL COORDINATOR AND LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF BICENTENNIAL EVENTS ARE BEING PLANNED IN GERMANY FOR 1976.

4. THE PAULSKIRCHE IN FRANKFURT WAS THE MEETING PLACE OF THE GERMAN NATIONAL CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF 1848-49 WHICH,INSPIRED BY THE AMERICAN AND FRENCH RE-VOLUTIONS AND DOMINATED BY LIBERAL ELEMENTS, ESSAYED (BUT FAILED) TO CREATE A DEMOCRATIC FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN GERMANY. THE PAULSKIRCHE, DESTROYED DURING AND RESTORED AFTER WORLD WAR II, SERVES AS A SYMBOL FOR DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS IN GERMANY. EVERY YEAR GERMANY'S MOST SIGNIFICANT AWARD, THE PEACE PRIZE OF THE GERMAN BOOK INDUSTRY, IS PRESENTED IN THE PAULSKIRCHE. IT WAS THERE THAT PRESIDENT KENNEDY SPOKE WHEN HE VISITED EUROPE IN THE SUMMER OF 1963.

5. IN VIEW OF ALL THIS I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE IT
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IF A REAL EFFORT COULD BE MADE TO OBTAIN AN AFFIRMATIVE REPLY FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT TO SPEAK AT THIS TRULY SIGNIFICANT AND NEWSWORTHY CEREMONY.
HILLENBRAND

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